

No. 39, of 1863, to grant furloughs to enlisted men in hospitals, is changed from 5 to 20 per cent.

HOSPITAL AND AMBULANCE FLAGS.

The hospital and ambulance flags of the Army are established as follows:

To General Hospital, yellow bunting 9 by 5 feet, with the letter H, 24 inches long, of green bunting, in the center.

The Post and Field Hospitals, yellow bunting 6 by 4 feet, with letter H, 24 inches long, of green bunting, in the center.

For Ambulance and guidons to mark the way to Field Hospitals, yellow bunting 14 by 28 inches, with a border, one inch deep, in green.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1864.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZE MONEY.

The Secretary of the Navy, in response to the House resolution asking the reasons for the delays in the distribution of prize money, replies that the action of the Department in matters of prize money is merely ministerial.

When captures are made, the officer in command sends his prize to the court for adjudication, and the vessel and cargo pass from the prize-master and naval control into the custody of the court and its officers.

The delays incident to judicial proceedings arising from contesting claimants, and the interposition of foreign officials in behalf of such of their countrymen as may be interested or implicated, appeal to the higher judicial tribunals for review and final judgment, are matters which cause, in many cases, prolonged delay.

The awards derived from the sales of condemned prize property in final decrees are deposited in the Treasury by the officers of the Court, and are never received into the possession of the Navy Department.

The Secretary further says that in a few exceptional cases, delays have resulted from the negligence of captors in not forwarding prize lists to the Department, but such officers have been admonished and required to do their duty upon receipt of the decrees of the Courts, for final distribution prize lists have been immediately forwarded to the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, by whom awards and payments have been made.

It is suggested that if the resolution is intended to reach the delays from contested questions and similar causes, the information must come from the judicial authorities, over whom the Navy Department has no control.

OUR RELATIONS WITH FRANCE.

The State Department has evidence satisfactory refuting the absurd stories recently copied by our press from European correspondents in Paris of the appearance in France of a "Monsieur Superville" on a mission from the Rebels, and of a treaty in negotiation between the Rebels and France. The entire tone of the foreign news is improving; but new and grave difficulties are likely to occur between Japan and the Western Powers.

The Maryland Legislature.

BALTIMORE, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1864.
The Maryland Senate yesterday passed the modified order in council by Mr. F. P. Kellogg of Fred-
erick as a substitute for the bill relating to non-slaveholding
states proposing the appointment of a Joint Committee
to have an interview with the President of the United
States in reference to questions which at this moment
engage the attention and so deeply concern the interests
of the people of Maryland.

The vote on the order was yeas, 17; nays 2. Three
Senators being absent.

Yesterday the House of Delegates they definitely
established the position of members on the order of
Emancipation.

Mr. Webb of Allegany introduced a preamble and
resolution declaring that the true interests of Maryland
demand that the policy of emancipation should be im-
mediately inaugurated within her borders. He also
introduced a bill for a Constitutional Convention,
so as to give them an opportunity to secure
such a policy into effect, and requesting our
Senators and Representatives in Congress to
use all honorable efforts to secure the
passage of a law by Congress whereby
all loyal owners who have suffered a loss of their slaves
shall be reimbursed. By a vote of 22 to 22, the rules
were suspended and the resolution passed to a second
reading, and a motion made to amend the last
resolution by striking out the words "Loyal owners"
and inserting, "All who own slaves, and have not en-
gaged in actual hostilities against the Government of
the United States, or given aid or comfort to those
engaged in hostilities against said Government." Re-
jected. Yeas, 19; Nays, 5.

The preamble and resolutions were finally adopted by
a vote of 25 to 17—seven members being absent or not
voting.

ARMACHARIS.

THE OLYMPIC THEATER.

Mr. J. K. Mortimer, the new comedian at this house, is making a great hit in a clever little farce entitled "A Bull in a China Shop." The piece is a favorite one with Charles Mathews, who recently played it for many nights in London. It was played here for the first time on Monday night, and gave Mr. Mortimer a chance to more than confirm his Western reputation. If he had made his debut in it he would have become at once the talk of the town. As it was, he had the misfortune to cast in a play in which there was no suitable part for him, and in which he barely saved himself from failure. The opportunity for his making a favorable first impression was thus gone forever, and not even his splendid success in "A Bull in a China Shop" will repair the loss.

For our own part, in common with most playgoers, we had come to the conclusion that the popularity of Mr. Mortimer in the West was the result of his personal rather than of his professional qualities, and that his career in New-York, where he is known only by name, would be brief and disastrous.

We have no hesitation now, however, in saying that, with the exception of Mr. Lester Wallack and Mr. Charles Mathews, he is the best eccentric comedian that we have seen this ten years. In fact, we are not without hope that he will prove to be, in addition that rarest of theatrical characters, a good light comedian, in which case, so far as this city is concerned, he can have everything his own way.

Meanwhile, we heartily congratulate Mrs. Wood on having secured so valuable an artist, and join with the public in the hearty cheers which, but for a managerial mistake, would have greeted him on his first metropolitan appearance.

The play in which Mr. Mortimer has so suddenly turned public opinion in his favor calls for no special notice. The character which he has to sustain in it is that of a good-natured busy-body, something of the Paul Pry order, who in trying to set things right in a friend's family, succeeds only in getting them into a horrible state of complication, and finally comes to the conclusion that he had better go home and mind his own business. "A Bull in a China Shop" might make as much fun and mischief, perhaps, but there is no such record, even in comic literature.

The character is one requiring for its representation great vivacity, versatility and vim, and we doubt whether Mr. Mathews himself does it more thoroughly than he does.

The other leading characters are sustained by Mr. T. Owen, Mr. Beeks, Mr. Davidge, Mr. Stoddart, Mrs. Sloan, Miss Harris, Miss Lee Lucy, and Miss Walters.

Mrs. Wood has no part in the play, but appears in the afterpiece—"Cousin Cherry"—in which, as the "widow of the mill," she makes no end of fun, and is ably supported by Mrs. Sedley Brown as "Eliza Pinches."

WALLACK'S THEATER.

At this house Sheridan Knowles's "Love Chase," which was withdrawn for a while to make way for another "modern antiquity," will be restored to night, and kept on the programme till further notice. It is understood that Mr. Boucicault's new comedy is in rehearsal here, and that on its production Mr. Lester Wallack's "Rosedale," which continues to draw crowded houses three nights in the week, will be temporarily withdrawn.

THE WINTER GARDEN.

"The Ticket-of-Leave-Man," with what the advertisements call its "heavenly moral," will be played at this house to-night for the seventy-sixth time, and might be safely kept on the bills, with its present cast, until the incoming of winter.

The same play, nearly as well cast, continues to be played every afternoon and evening at

BARNUM'S MUSEUM.

Now, however, although it continues to draw in-

ments houses, it is to be withdrawn after Saturday

make way for a new drama said to be even more exciting.

Towering far above all plays and players, however, at the Museum, stand the three giants, each as tall as a country steeple and as heavy as a country sermon. The employes of the place look up to them with "a respect not unmingled with fatigue," while the habitues go home wondering why people whose heads are so near the stars should follow any other pursuit (seeing the continuance of telescopes) than that of astronomy.

VAN AMBURGH'S MENAGERIE.

This splendid collection of animals, birds, etc., continues to be largely frequented, and is one of the most agreeable resorts for families and children in the city. These entertaining performances are given every day; attentive keepers are ready at all times to show off the animals, the place is always in perfect order, and the public at large seem to take pride in the fact that we have at last established among us a permanent Zoological Museum.

THE BROADWAY AMPHITHEATER.

Equestrian, gymnastic and other performances of a high order, are given here every afternoon and evening, and the appointments are so perfect in every respect that we can safely recommend the place as being altogether the best of its kind that we ever had. Like the Menagerie, it is a favorite resort for the young people who go there every afternoon in large numbers, and are delighted with the entertainment beyond measure.

Chess Match by Telegraph.

A chess match of unusual interest is now in course of play through the medium of the People's Telegraph, between the picked men, respectively, of the Philadelphia Club and that known as the Paulsen Club in this city. The Philadelphians are represented by Messrs. Whittemore, Kelleher and Thomas; and the Paulsen Club by Messrs. Breuninger, Johnston and Chamberlain. The regulations governing the conduct of the game, embracing a stipulation that fifteen minutes should be the extreme limit of time allowed for the consideration of a move, having been readily agreed upon, began on the evening of Monday last, at 7 o'clock, p. m., the New-York Committee occupying a room at the office of the Telegraph Company, No. 21 Wall street, and the Philadelphia players meeting for consultation at the other terminus of the line. In order to insure the carrying out, to the letter, of all the terms of the match, umpires were, as is usual in such cases, appointed to represent the interests of their principals. In this capacity Mr. M. J. Macelhone of New-York was selected by the Philadelphians, and Mr. S. W. Walker by the New-York players. During the first day's play but 14 moves transpired, an early adjournment having been agreed upon, when further play was postponed until 7 o'clock on the following day, when nine moves only were recorded, from the fact that the varied positions occurring in the progress of the game became so intricate that the players on both sides found it necessary to consume almost the entire time allotted them for the consideration of each move. Play, therefore, after New-York's 2nd move, was again adjourned, and resumed at the usual time and place last evening. The match is not yet concluded, but the general opinion obtained from the definite result will be attained in the course of this night's play.

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Warranted to restore faded and thin hair and whiskers to their original color and every other pre-
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